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**Important Information about Prescription Drug Coverage for  
People with Medicare**

Many of you have heard that the new Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) will begin on **January 1, 2006**. This letter will address some questions about this change.

- If you only receive MassHealth, sometimes called Medicaid, and do not have Medicare, (or if you receive one check, SSI and not SSDI) there will be no changes in how you receive your prescription drugs. MassHealth will continue to cover prescription drugs with the same co-pay level you have now.
- For all people with Medicare – You must choose and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan in order to receive this new benefit. The *Medicare & You* handbook that you will receive in October will contain a list of available plans in Massachusetts.
  - If you receive your prescription coverage through your employer or union you will need to talk with them about any changes. You may be able to keep that coverage.
  - If you are enrolled with Prescription Advantage they will be sending you more details by mail in the coming months.
  - If you have a purchased Medicare Supplemental (Medigap) policy and receive prescriptions through it, you need to contact your plan.
  - People of low income with Medicare may apply for extra financial help with the costs associated with this new benefit. Contact the Social Security Administration for more information about applying for this extra help. (People with MassHealth and Medicare will automatically receive this extra help and don't need to apply.)
- If you are on Medicare and MassHealth (or if you receive both SSI and SSDI checks), MassHealth will no longer cover *most* of your prescription drugs as of January 1, 2006. Instead, you will need to choose and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan in order to continue to receive drug coverage.
  - This October, Medicare will notify you about which Medicare prescription drug plan has been randomly chosen for you. Contact your doctor or health care professional to check and see whether the plan randomly chosen for you is the right one for you. If the plan does not cover your medicines or pharmacies, you have between November 15<sup>th</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> to enroll in a different plan.
  - In October Medicare will also send you the *Medicare & You* handbook that will describe all the available plans in Massachusetts and will explain how to enroll in a plan. Your doctor, case manager, or pharmacist can also help you enroll in a plan. If you don't enroll in a different plan by December 31, Medicare will enroll you on January 1, 2006 into the plan randomly chosen for you.
  - You have the right to change plans at any time.
  - Because you are on MassHealth, you may have already received a letter telling you that Medicare will help you pay for this new plan. Many of you will see no difference

from the \$1 and \$3 co-pays you now pay. Depending on income, some people might see their co-pays go up to \$2 and \$5.

- If you have any questions about any part of this process, please contact any of the people or agencies listed on the enclosed resource list.

### Resource List

People/Programs	Information
Your Doctor	Your doctor will review your medications and may assist you in deciding which of the plans is best for you.
Your Case Worker	If you are a DMH client, your case manager will be able to help you with your questions. If you live in a residential program or go to a clubhouse, staff there should be able to answer your questions as well.
Your Pharmacist	Beginning in October, your pharmacist will have enough information to answer your questions
Medicare	1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY: 1-877-486-2048 <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> (personalized information available)
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213 TTY: 1-800-325-0778 <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov">www.socialsecurity.gov</a>
The SHINE Program	The SHINE Program is a state health insurance assistance program that provides free health care information, assistance and counseling to Medicare beneficiaries of all ages. 1-800-243-4636, select option '2' TTY: 1-800-872-1066
MassMedLine	MassMedLine is an information telephone line that can help you find the Medicare prescription drug plan that is best for you. If you have a computer, you can also visit the MassMedLine Web site. 1-866-633-1617 <a href="http://www.massmedline.com">www.massmedline.com</a>
Prescription Advantage	1-800-243-4636, select option '1' TTY: 1-877-610-0241 <a href="http://www.800ageinfo.com">www.800ageinfo.com</a>